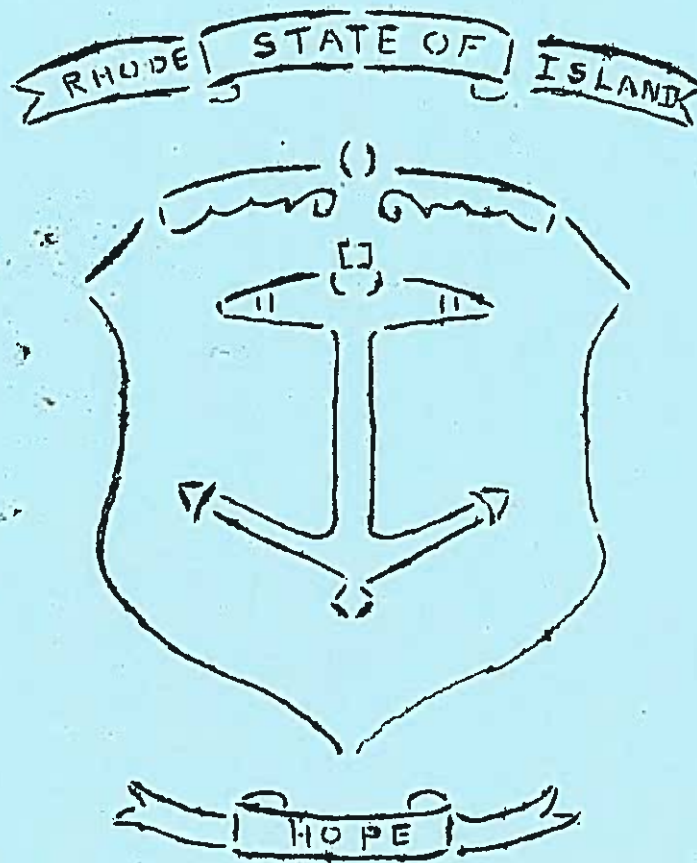


WHAT CHEER NEWS



RHODE ISLAND POST CARD CLUB

SPECIAL RHODE ISLAND ISSUE

VOL. I NO. I

JANUARY 1960

DEDICATED

TO THE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

"SOUTHERN GATEWAY TO NEW ENGLAND"

CAPITOL PROVIDENCE

MOTTO HOPE

TREE MAPLE

"LITTLE RHODY"

FLOWER VIOLET

BIRD BOBWHITE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Year Greetings to all the members and friends of the Rhode Island Post Card Club and congratulations to our Editor who has given much time and effort to produce our fine new bulletin, "What Cheer News". In the language of the Narragansett Indians, it means "Greetings"; hence, greetings to all Post Card Collectors.

At the January meeting, new officers will be elected and I am confident that my successor will stimulate our very active society to even greater heights.

Thanks to all for the courtesies and kindnesses shown to me during my presidency and particularly to Mrs. Quincy, Mrs. Patt and Mrs. Allinson, who have aided me so much.

May you enjoy belonging to our club and from it reap a great deal of interest, knowledge and enjoyment.

Sincerely,
John Rose, President

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND & PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

PROVIDENCE

Christopher Del Sesto
Governor

January 5, 1960

Mrs. Ethel Burton Quincy
Editor
What Cheer News
194 Lafayette Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Dear Mrs. Quincy;

As Governor of Rhode Island, I am honored to extend greetings to you and your readers in this, the first issue of "What Cheer News".

Your club provides not only a marvelous avocation for your members but is a singular contribution to the rich heritage of our state,

I know that the new bulletin will serve to stimulate even greater interest in the aims and purposes of your club.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Christopher Del Sesto
Governor

(original signed)

jmp

----- NOTICE OF MEETING -----

January 31, 1960

SUNDAY

1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

AUDUBON SOCIETY

40 Bowen Street

Providence, R. I.

ANNUAL MEETING

ELECTION of OFFICERS

PROGRAM

Cards We Like To Collect

Mr. & Mrs. Edward McCarthy

Bring any interesting cards to display. Donations to Card Pool and for Door Prizes would be very much appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

MR. DON BARTELS

November 1959

McAllen, Texas

Member #73

Dealer-Photographer

EDITORIAL

We have dedicated the first issue of our new bulletin to the State of R. I. which seemed very apropos because of the name we have chosen "What Cheer News". We are very grateful to our Governor for his fine letter and to Mrs. Kahler for the privilege of writing her fine article on Rhode Island.

Because of this being a special issue we must omit some of our usual items and several other articles sent in by our good members.

We have six new members since Dec. Bulletin and their no. name and collections will appear in the next issue. We have several fine answers to our Question & Answer section and they will appear in the February issue.

Many letters have been received commenting so favorably on our past notices and to them we are deeply grateful. Future bulletins hold much promise if our advertisers stay with us and membership increases. So, pay your dues for the year at once and get new members.

Ethel B. Quincy - Ed.

DUES \$1.00 (plus 10¢ for Address Plate (New Members) JOIN NOW

TALK by ALICE W. KAHLER Sept. 27, 1959 R.I. POST CARD CLUB

Three hundred and more years ago Market Square, Canal St. and Exchange Place, Providence, were a salt cove which merged into the Providence River at Weybosset Point (Weybosset St. was an Indian Trail). The easterly side was a gravelly beach and the westerly shore below Weybosset Pt. was marsh land used for farming. The first bridge was built across in 1660.

In 1646, Roger Williams landed on the edge of the Seekonk River - now Williams St. - where he was greeted by the Indians with "What Cheer, Netop" meaning "Welcome, Friend". A slate rock which marked this first landing is now buried 20' below grade, being necessary when Gano St. was constructed and the shore area filled in. Another monument erected in 1906, now, marks this landing (cd).

After exchanging greetings, Roger Williams sailed around the point and landed near the salt cove where he finally settled. His house was located on Benefit St. a couple of blocks from where we meet, 40 Bowen St. (CD). His spring on No. Main St. is marked with a bronze plaque.

Another monument was erected in Roger Williams Park, 1777, in front of the Betsy Williams cottage (cd). Betsy is not the wife of or daughter of Roger Williams but is a lineal descendant, having been born over 150 years after Roger Williams. She bequeathed 100 acres of her estate to the City of Providence in 1871. Her cottage serves as a Museum of Colonial furniture (cd). Roger Williams was buried in the yard of his home on Benefit St. and later removed to No. Burial Grounds. Finally, the remains were encased in the base of a statue of Roger Williams in Prospect Terrace. This statue overlooks the entire city of Providence and is certainly worth visiting. It bears the inscription, - - "Here reposes the soil from the grave of Roger Williams. (No Cd.)"

The old State House at 155 No. Main St. (cd) was built in 1762. The R.I. Declaration of Independence was signed here, May 4, 1776. It was used as a State House until 1901. Now, it is the Sixth District Court Bldg.

The Market House (cd), a place for storage and display of food built in Market Square 1773 by the Town with funds raised by a lottery, was designed by Jos. Brown, Amateur Architect and Physicist. Originally it had only two stories. The first floor, composed of open arches, provided direct access from the street to the merchant's stalls. A third story was added in 1797 by St. John's Lodge of Masons and served as the first Masonic Lodge Hall in R. I. It was here that the people demonstrated their resistance to unjust taxation by burning British tea on the night of March 2, 1775.

R.I. College (cd) established at Warren, R.I. 1765 moved to Providence 1770 and was renamed Brown University for Nicholas Brown, a generous donor. Its first building, University Hall, served as barracks for American and French troops during the Revolutionary years. At that time college was suspended. In 1792, a bell was hung in its cupola and has been used ever since to call students to classes and on other special occasions.

Having outgrown its quarters 1739, the General Assembly voted to construct new ones, the building to be 80' by 40' of brick and stone combined (cd). Thus was erected the Colony House at Newport. It was used for public meetings, also and for religious and social functions. From the adoption of the Constitution in 1790 until the dedication of the new State House in 1900, the May sessions of the State Legislature had been held in this building.

George Berkeley, Dean of Derry, arrived in Newport seeking to improve politics, learning and art. He suggested the formation of a literary society which resulted in the erection of the Redwood Public Library, Newport, 1747 (cd). This was the first public library in this country.

The Arcade erected in Providence, 1827, is a Greek Temple form of architecture with granite Ionic columns weighing twelve tons each 22' high and three feet in diameter. These columns were cut at Bear Rock Ledge in Johnston and hauled one at a time through the woods to Providence by twelve to fifteen yoke of oxen. The east half was owned by Cyrus Butler and the west half by the Arcade Corp. It was occupied by dress shops, millinery shops, etc. This card of Westminster St. side shows the low pediment on the front while another card shows Weybosset Street front with no pediment.

The Athenaeum(cd) corner of Benefit and College Sts established 1831, united with the Providence Library Co. and chartered in 1836. It is a Greek Doric building, interior fitted with alcoves and galleries and has a collection of over 134,000 volumes. The drinking fountain was a gift of Mrs. Anne Richmond. The privileges of the library are restricted to shareholders and subscribers.

The Daggett House(cds) Pawtucket was built 1685 by John Daggett. The City of Pawtucket purchased, some 200 years later, the land surrounding the house for a park. Originally, it was called Daggett Park but later, the name was changed to Slater Park.

Samuel Slater, when 21 yrs. old, came from England to America. He had the first accurate knowledge of the world's finest automatic machinery which his experience, skill and good memory enabled him to reproduce. Thus, the first successful cotton mill in America was established in Pawtucket, 1793 by Samuel Slater. These cards show the mill as it appeared in 1793, 1812 and as it is at present. Other cards show the models of Slater's carding engines and Arkwright's water frames.

Elizabeth or Betty Alden, daughter of John and Priscilla, born in Plymouth, Mass. was the first white woman born in N.E. She married Walter Pabodie, first Town Clerk of Little Compton, R.I. and lived there until her death 1717 at 92. Their house is still standing although it has been rebuilt and now a private residence. Betty is buried in the cemetery of Congregational churchyard, church founded 1704 (ods). In that same churchyard are two unusual grave stones, side by side (cd). The inscription on one-"In memory of Lydia, wife of Simeon Palmer who died Dec. 26, 1754 in the 35th year of her age". On the other-"In memory of Elizabeth who should have been the wife of Simeon Palmer who died August 14, 1770 in the 64th year of her age". It is believed that Elizabeth mended his socks and cooked his meals.

Churches - The Baptist Society was formed by Roger Williams and in 1775 the First Baptist Meeting House in Providence was built(cds). Always, it has been connected with Brown University. Its famous steeple has weathered 3 hurricanes and many gales despite its great height and ornamentation. No significant changes or repairs have been necessary in its nearly 200 years of existence. Due to its peculiar structure which is in sections, like a telescope extended half its full length, winds can sway but have failed to topple this 186' steeple. Cards show it as it appeared in 1775 and as it now appears-interior view, steeple & bell.

The Jewish Synagogue built in Newport 1763, is the oldest Jewish Synagogue in America (cd).

St. John's Episcopal Church, Providence, was founded as King's Chapel in 1720(cd). Grace Church, Providence 1846(Cds) show exterior & inter.

First Congregational (Unitarian) Providence; built for the third time in 1816. In its steeple is the largest and heaviest bell ever cast in the foundry of Paul Revere and Son(cd). Round Top Beneficent Congregational Church erected 1808, Providence(cd).

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Pawtucket, built 1829, first Roman Catholic Church in R.I. From 1800 to 1829 masses were said at the Old Colony House, Newport and priests from Boston celebrated masses in Bristol (no card).

Elder Ballou Meeting House, Cumberland, built 1740(cd)

Indian Meeting House, Charlestown, used for religious services since early days (no cd).

Friend's Meeting House, Saylesville, 1703(cd). Mounting stone in yard.

The Society of Friends founded Moses Brown School, Prov. in 1819 (cd).

Catholic Oak, Lonsdale(cd)-Under this tree, the Rev. James Cook Richardson of the Episcopal Church held open air services from 1843-1847, preaching to large audiences of many sects, hence its name. (The tree is now dead and several new ones have been planted in its place).

Old Stone Mill, Newport (cd) - This still remains a riddle of the ages.

Lime Rock - You'll have to use your imagination here. This card is Lime Rock Grange Hall which was once used as a Toll Gate house but in the rear of this Grange building is the oldest lime stone quarry in this country. Its operation started in 1643 by Thomas Harris, a contemporary of Roger Williams. It is still in operation today (no card).

Again use your imagination. This card is a picture of the Floating Island in Lonsdale. It is chained in the northern end of Scott's Pond. It was the means of linking the Blackstone Canal which came up the Mo-shassuck Valley to the Blackstone Valley, 45 miles from Providence to Worcester, Mass. Excavation began in 1824. It was a tremendous project in engineering costing \$750,000. There were 49 locks constructed of heavy granite. Warehouses and manufacturing plants were built on its banks and business increased. When Providence & Worcester R.R. started

1847, the canal was abandoned as arguments and quarrels arose between boatmen and mill owners over the water rights.

Kingston(cds), - A lovely old town formerly known as "Little Rest", believed to be so named because the United Colonies rested there at the top of a hill on their way to Great Swamp Fight.

King Phillips Rock(cd) 1670, Mt. Hope Bay, is the resting place of King Phillip, the last of the Wampanoags to be killed.

Wickford(cds) p A very old town on the west shore of Narragansett Bay. More well preserved 18th century houses are said to exist here than in any other town of the same size in New England.

Houses - Gilbert Stuart(cd) Saunderstown, built 1755 - 18th Century Snuff Mill. Home of Gilbert Stuart, Colonial Artist, well known for his painting of George Washington.

Eleazer Arnold or Garrison House(cd) Lincoln, R.I. - 1687. The best preserved 17th century structure in R.I. Once a tavern and famous for enormous stone chimney.

Butterfly Factory(cd)1810, Lincoln. Noted for the formation of stones resembling a butterfly. Now, a private residence.

There are so many historical churches, houses, towns, etc. that I feel guilty in neglecting them. Bristol, Portsmouth, Woonsocket, Smithfield and many other towns are full of interesting history and I hope to own postcards of them; also, houses like the Clemence Irons House built in Manton, 1654, one of the oldest houses still standing; the John Brown House, Power St., Providence, now the home of the R.I. Historical Society and many more of equal interest. St. Paul's Church in Wickford, built 1707, is a beautiful old church. A picture appears in today's Prov. Sun. Journal of lovely Trinity Church, Newport 1726 and in the same paper is an ad of Gladding's Store announcing its 193rd anniversary sale and a picture of its early store at Cheapside(now No. Main St.) between Market Square and Waterman St.leading shopping section.

In closing, let us forget past history for a minute and think of our present State House. Built during 1896-1900 of white Georgian marble it has the second largest marble dome in the world; the largest is at St. Peter's in Rome. On top of the dome is a symbolic bronze statue of the "Independent Man"(not Roger Williams). On the front lawn guarding it are two bronze statyes of famous R.I. Military Leaders, Ben. Nathaniel Green and Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. Inside, in the reception room hangs a full length portrait of George Washington, painted by our own Gilbert Stuart.In the Secy. of State's office is the original parchment of the charter granted by King Chas.II, July 8, 1663 which continued in force until 1843(cd). On the north side of the building is inscribed "Providence Plantations Founded by Roger Williams, 1635 Providence-Portsmouth-Newport Incorporated by Parliament 1643; R.I. Providence-Plantations obtained Royal Charter 1663 - In General Assembly declared a Sovereign State May 4, 1776".

We can all be justly proud of the historic record of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

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ETHEL L. PATT

53 Annawamscutt Road

West Barrington, R.I.

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